41. (Amended) The diagnostic kit of claim 70, wherein:

said kit comprises a circular solid support having as its application site an interior filter circle, and an inner concentric ring and an outer concentric ring,

said inner concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, said first half containing said first area having said ligand to said albumin-metal complex, and

said outer concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, each said outer ring halves aligned with the inner ring halves, and each said outer ring halves comprising the second area having ligands to said derivatives.

42. (Amended) The diagnostic kit of claim 70, wherein:

said kit comprises a circular solid support having as its application site an inner filter circle surrounded by a concentric ring, and

said concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, said first half comprising said first area of ligand to albumin-metal complex, and the second half comprising said second area having ligands to said derivatives.

47. (Amended) The diagnostic kit of claim 71 wherein:

said kit comprises a first elongated solid support having a first and a second end, said first end having as its application site a filter for application of a patient sample, and wherein said first area of immobilized metal ion is between the first and the second end, and said second area of immobilized ligand to derivatives is proximate the second end.

52. (Amended) A ligand directed to an epitope at the N-terminus of the albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks four N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID. NO. 1.

53. (Amended) A ligand directed to an epitope at the N-terminus of the albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks the three N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID NO. 1.

54. (Amended) A ligand directed to an epitope at the N-terminus of the albumin N-terminal

derivative which lacks the two N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID NO. 1.

55. (Amended) A ligand directed to an epitope at the N-terminus of the albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks the N-terminal amino acid of SEQ. ID NO. 1.

56. (Amended) A ligand directed to an epitope at the N-terminus of SEQ. ID NO. 2.

62. (Amended) A method of calibrating an analyzer that detects or measures an ischemic event by detecting the amount of albumin that is bound at its N-terminus to metal ion, comprising the step of:

applying the calibrator solution of claim 57 to the analyzer to determine the amount of metal ions bound to the albumin N-terminus, whereby the predetermined ratio of albumin to metal serves as a standard for calibration.

63. (Amended) A method of calibrating an analyzer that detects or measures an ischemic event by detecting by absorbance the amount of metal ion that has not bound to the albumin N-terminus in a patient sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing the calibrator composition solution of claim 57 with a predetermined amount of an excess metal salt, whereby said unbound albumin binds to said excess metal ion, generating unbound metal ions,

(b) contacting the mixture of step (a) with color forming [solution] compound to form a colored solution,

(c) applying the mixture of step (b) to the analyzer, whereby the predetermined ratio of albumin to metal serves as a standard for calibration.

64. (Amended) A method of calibrating an analyzer that detects or measures an ischemic event by measuring endogenous copper bound to the N-terminus of albumin, comprising the step of:

applying the calibrator solution of claim 57 wherein the metal is copper to the analyzer to

cont
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determine the amount of copper ions bound to the albumin N-terminus, whereby the predetermined ratio of albumin to copper serves as a standard for calibration.

Please add the following new claims:

65. (New) A method of detecting an albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks four N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID NO. 1, comprising contacting a sample comprising said derivative with the ligand of claim 52.

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66. (New) A method of detecting an albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks three N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID. NO. 1, comprising contacting a sample comprising said derivative with the ligand of claim 53.

67. (New) A method of detecting an albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks two N-terminal amino acids of SEQ. ID. NO. 1, comprising contacting a sample comprising said derivative with the ligand of claim 54.

68. (New) A method of detecting an albumin N-terminal derivative which lacks an N-terminal amino acid of SEQ. ID NO. 1, comprising contacting a sample comprising said derivative with the ligand of claim 55.

69. (New) A method of detecting an albumin N-terminal derivative which is acetylated at its N-terminal Asp residue (SEQ. ID. NO. 2), comprising contacting a sample comprising said derivative with the ligand of claim 56.

70. (New) A diagnostic kit for an ischemic event comprising:

an application site where a mixture is applied, said mixture comprising excess metal ion and a patient sample comprising naturally-occurring albumin and optionally albumin N-terminal derivatives, whereby metal-albumin complexes are formed in said mixture,

a first area having ligands to the metal-albumin complex affixed thereto, and

a second area having ligands to said derivatives affixed thereto,

said application site, said first ligand area and second ligand area being positioned within a migration path for the mixture,

whereby detection of said derivative in said second area provides a determination the occurrence or non-occurrence of an ischemic event.

71. (New) A diagnostic kit for an ischemic event comprising:

an application site where a patient sample is applied, said sample comprising naturally-occurring albumin and optionally albumin N-terminal derivatives,

a first area having immobilized metal ions, whereby contact with the sample results in the formation of metal-albumin complex affixed thereto, and

a second area having ligands to said derivatives affixed thereto,

wherein said application site, said first area and said second area are positioned within a migration path for the sample,

whereby detection of said derivative in said second area provides a determination the occurrence or non-occurrence of an ischemic event.

72. (New) The diagnostic kit of claim 71, wherein:

said kit comprises a circular solid support having as its application site an interior filter circle, and an inner concentric ring and an outer concentric ring,

said inner concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, said first half containing the first area of immobilized metal ions, and

said outer concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, each said outer ring halves aligned with the inner ring halves, and each said outer ring half containing the second area having ligands to said derivatives.

73. (New) The diagnostic kit of claim 71, wherein:

said kit comprises a circular solid support having as its application site an inner filter

circle surrounded by a concentric ring,

said concentric ring being divided into a first and second half, said first half comprising said first area of immobilized metal ions, and the second half comprising said second area having ligands to said derivatives.

74. (New) A calibrator composition comprising a predetermined molar ratio of naturally-occurring albumin and albumin N-terminal derivatives, wherein said ratio is between 0.1:1 and 1:0.1.

75. (New) The calibrator composition of claim 74 wherein the molar ratio of naturally-occurring albumin to albumin N-terminal derivatives is 3:1.

76. (New) The calibrator composition of claim 74 wherein the molar ratio of naturally-occurring albumin to albumin N-terminal derivatives is 1:3.

77. (New) The calibrator composition of claim 74 wherein the molar ratio of naturally-occurring albumin to albumin N-terminal derivatives is 1:1.

78. (New) A method of calibrating an analyzer that detects or measures an ischemic event by detecting by absorbance the amount of metal ion that has not bound to the albumin N-terminus in a patient sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) mixing the calibrator composition of claim 74 with a predetermined amount of an excess metal salt, whereby naturally-occurring albumin binds to said excess metal ion, generating unbound metal ions,

(b) contacting the mixture of step (a) with a color forming compound to form a colored solution,

(c) applying the mixture of step (b) to the analyzer, whereby the predetermined ratio of naturally-occurring albumin to albumin N-terminal derivatives serves as a standard for calibration.

79. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises steps selected from the group consisting of:

a) ruling out or diagnosing a cardiac ischemic event in a patient, wherein said cardiac ischemic event may be exercise-induced;

b) diagnosing a cerebral ischemic event in a patient;

c) diagnosing a bowel ischemic event in a patient;

d) diagnosing a placental ischemic event in a patient;

e) diagnosing a temporally-limited ischemic event in a patient;

f) diagnosing a silent ischemic event in a patient;

g) monitoring a patient's response to thrombolytic therapy; and

h) monitoring a patient's response to angioplasty.

80. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said method further comprises steps selected from the group consisting of:

a) ruling out or diagnosing a cardiac ischemic event in a patient, wherein said cardiac ischemic event may be exercise-induced;

b) diagnosing a cerebral ischemic event in a patient;

c) diagnosing a bowel ischemic event in a patient;

d) diagnosing a placental ischemic event in a patient;

e) diagnosing a temporally-limited ischemic event in a patient;

f) diagnosing a silent ischemic event in a patient;

g) monitoring a patient's response to thrombolytic therapy; and

h) monitoring a patient's response to angioplasty.

81. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said method further comprises steps selected from the group consisting of:

a) ruling out or diagnosing a cardiac ischemic event in a patient, wherein said cardiac ischemic event may be exercise-induced;

b) diagnosing a cerebral ischemic event in a patient;

c) diagnosing a bowel ischemic event in a patient;

d) diagnosing a placental ischemic event in a patient;

e) diagnosing a temporally-limited ischemic event in a patient;

f) diagnosing a silent ischemic event in a patient;

g) monitoring a patient's response to thrombolytic therapy; and

h) monitoring a patient's response to angioplasty.

82. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said method further comprises steps selected from the group consisting of:

a) ruling out or diagnosing a cardiac ischemic event in a patient, wherein said cardiac ischemic event may be exercise-induced;

b) diagnosing a cerebral ischemic event in a patient;

c) diagnosing a bowel ischemic event in a patient;

d) diagnosing a placental ischemic event in a patient;

e) diagnosing a temporally-limited ischemic event in a patient;

f) diagnosing a silent ischemic event in a patient;

g) monitoring a patient's response to thrombolytic therapy; and

h) monitoring a patient's response to angioplasty.

REMARKS

Following entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-13, 19-22 and 28-82 are pending in the application.

Support for the amendments to claims 36, 41, 42, 47 and for new claims 70-73 can be found in the specification at page 16, line 17 to page 20, line 19.

Support for amendments to claims 52-56 can be found in the specification at page 16, lines 8-17; page 17, lines 1-4; page 19, lines 1-4; and page 21, lines 3-19.

Support for new claims 65-69 can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 6-13; page 16, lines 8-17; page 17, lines 1-4; page 19, lines 1-4; and page 21, lines 3-19.

Support for new claims 74-78 can be found in the specification at page 8, lines 21-26;